

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 05191 182157Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /090 W

----- 121598

P R 182100Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2900

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: POSISITON OF UCR IN PRESENT POLITICAL PROCESS

1. SUMMARY: PERON HAS NOT YET OFFERED BALBIN THE VICE-PRESIDENCY, AND SOME BELIEVE THAT AT LAST MINUTE HE WILL BACK AWAY FROM OFFERING IT. ASSUMING THAT HE DOES NOT, THAT IS, THAT HE DOES INDEED GO AHEAD IN OFFERING THE CANDIDACY TO BALBIN, UCR PARTY CONGRESS WILL CONVENE END OF AUGUST OR FIRST DAYS OF SEPTEMBER. BALBIN WILL THEN NEED APPROVAL OF TWO-THIRDS OF DELEGATES FOR MIXED SLATE WITH PERON. CHANCES ARE THAT HE CAN GET IT, DESPITE CONTINUED OPPOSITION OF SOME ALFONSINISTAS, WHO SAY THEY WOULD PREFER AN ALL-PERONIST SLATE WHICH WOULD LEAVE UCR FREE TO PURSUE ROLE OF LOYAL OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. AS OF MOMENT, PERON HAS NOT FORMALLY OFFERED BALBIN THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY. INDICATIONS ARE THAT PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ARE CONTINUING, BUT THAT PERON MUST INSTILL DISCIPLINE IN HIS OWN HOUSE BEFORE OPENLY APPROACHING BALBIN. SPECIFICALLY, THERE ARE THOSE IN HIS MOVEMENT-- LOPEZ REGA AMONG OTHERS-WHO MAY BE LESS THAN ENCHANTED BY PROSPECT OF EXTRA-PARTY CANDIDATE.

3. UCR CONGRESS TO DECIDE MATTER OF CANDIDACY IS NOW SET FOR SOMETIME DURING WEEK BEGINNING JULY 28. PARTY RULES DEMAND THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 05191 182157Z

EXTRA-PARTY CANDIDATE--I.E., IN THIS CASE PERON-BALBIN TICKET--

HAVE APPROVAL OF TWO THIRDS OF VOTING DELEGATES. BALBINISTAS CANNOT CHANGE RULES WITHOUT SAME TWO-THIRDS VOTE; HENCE, THE ONE WOULD BE AS DIFFICULT AS THE OTHER AND THEY WILL PROBABLY GO DIRECTLY TO A VOTE ON THE SLATE WITHOUT PRELIMINARY EFFORT TO CHANGE RULES.

4. GREAT MAJORITY OF EMBASSY'S UCR CONTACTS, INCLUDING EVEN SOME PREVIOUSLY INTRANSIGENT ALFONSINISTAS, ARE IN FAVOR OF JOINT TICKET. CONTACTS CLOSE TO BALBIN SAY HE INTENDS FIRST TO PUT ISSUE TO VOTE IN COMING CONGRESS. HE BELIEVES HE CAN GET NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS. IF HE DOES NOT, HE WILL THEN CONSIDER ACCEPTING CANDIDACY IN PERSONAL CAPACITY AND INVITING MAJORITY OF PARTY TO JOIN HIM IN NATIONAL UNITY EFFORT OUTSIDE PARTY. IN EFFECT, THIS WOULD AT LEAST TEMPORARILY SPLIT PARTY AND LEAVE RECALCITRANT ALFONSINISTAS ISOLATED.

5. POSITION OF UCR IN PRESENT SITUATION IS FASCINATING STUDY OF PRAGMATISM VERSUS THEORETICAL PERSUASION. MOVE AGAINST CAMPORA AND HIS COTERIE (PUIG, VAZQUEZ, ET AL) IS CLEARLY MOVE AWAY FROM LEFT TOWARD CENTER (IF NOT, INDEED, TOWARD RIGHT). YET, EVEN BALBINISTA MAJORITY OF UCR STANDS TO LEFT OF PERONIST MAINSTREAM--THOUGH NOT SO FAR TO LEFT AS PUIG-VAZQUEZ GROUP. HENCE, WHILE PRAGMATICALLY INCLINED TO GO ALONG, BALBINISTAS ARE INSISTING THAT PERON'S "CONSTITUTIONAL COUP" IS NOT RPT NOT A RIGHTIST COUP. "IF IT WERE," THEY AVER STOUTLY, "WE COULD NOT SUPPORT IT." ALFONSINISTAS, REPRESENTING LEFT WING OF RADICALISMO, ARE NOT SO SURE. THEY DO SEE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AS MOVE TOWARDS RIGHT AND ARE DISTURBED BY IT. THEY SUM UP THEIR POSITION BY SAYING "WE PREFERRED PUIG TO VIGNES AND CAMPORA TO LOPEZ REGA."

6. WITHIN SAME CONTEXT, BOTH BALBINISTAS AND ALFONSINISTAS HAVE SPECULATED THAT PERONIST LEFT WING MAY BE GLAD TO ACCEPT BALBIN CANDIDACY AS GUARANTEE--OR AT LEAST BULWARK--AGAINST PERONIST RIGHT.

7. THAT ASIDE, POSITION ENUNCIATED TO US BY ALFONSINISTAS IS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF PRINCIPLE RATHER THAN PRAGMATISM. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE SWITCH FROM CAMPORA TO PERON REALLY SIGNIFIES ANY CHANGE, SINCE THEY INSIST THAT PERON, WERE HE SINCERE, HAD AMPLE MEANS OF CONTROLLING SITUATION WITHOUT ASSUMING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 05191 182157Z

PRESIDENCY. FURTHER, THEY SAY, BALBIN' POSITION AS VICE-PRESIDENT WOULD BE SO CIRCUMSCRIBED AS TO BE VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS. PERON, NOT BALBIN, WOULD CONTROL CGT AND CONGRESSIONAL MAJORITY. (ALFONSINISTAS HAVE PUBLICLY PROPOSED THAT PERON, AS TOKEN OF GOOD FAITH, REORGANIZE CGT ON BI-PARTISAN BASIS. OBVIOUSLY, HE HAS NOT AND IS NOT LIKELY TO RISE TO BAIT). MOREOVER, THEY HAVE NO CONFIDENCE THAT PERONIST MASSES, TO SAY NOTHING OF POLITICIANS, WOULD LONG ACCEPT BALBIN'S LEADERSHIP IN EVENT OF PERON'S

UNTIMELY DEMISE. IN SUM, THEY SEE FEW REAL ADVANTAGES IN JOINT
TICKET AND WOULD PREFER THAT UCR MAINTAIN INDEPENDENCE AND
CONTINUE PLAY ROLE OF LOYAL OPPOSITION. AT SAME TIME, THEY ARE
PUSHING FOR ALL-PERONIST
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUENOS05191
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS LODGE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730727/aaaaatja.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 15 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSISITON OF UCR IN PRESENT POLITICAL PROCESS
TAGS: PINT, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005